Event History Analysis With Roman Emperor's Data

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# Introduction

This example uses data on the ages of death of Roman Emperors. Source unclear.

# Get Data

. clear all

. import delimited "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/agrogan1/newstuff/master/categorical/survival-analysis-and-event-history/emperors/emperors.csv  
> "  
(encoding automatically selected: ISO-8859-1)  
(16 vars, 68 obs)

# Date Wrangling

. \* we can't use the date() function   
. \* because it does not work  
. \* with dates prior to 100AD

. \* generate birthdate = date(birth, "YMD")

. \* generate deathdate = date(death, "YMD")

. generate birthyear = real(substr(birth, 1, 4)) // convert first 4 characters to real number  
(5 missing values generated)

. generate deathyear = real(substr(death, 1, 4)) // convert first 4 characters to real number

. \* browse name name\_full birth birthyear death deathyear

. generate age = deathyear - birthyear  
(5 missing values generated)

. \* need to recalculate age for those born in BCE

. encode cause, generate(causeNUMERIC) // numeric version of cause of death

. codebook causeNUMERIC if age != . // show values of causeNUMERIC for non missing ages  
  
────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
causeNUMERIC (unlabeled)  
────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
  
 Type: Numeric (long)  
 Label: causeNUMERIC  
  
 Range: [1,7] Units: 1  
 Unique values: 7 Missing .: 0/63  
  
 Tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label  
 23 1 Assassination  
 1 2 Captivity  
 4 3 Died in Battle  
 8 4 Execution  
 21 5 Natural Causes  
 5 6 Suicide  
 1 7 Unknown

. encode rise, generate(riseNUMERIC) // numeric version of cause of death

. codebook riseNUMERIC  
  
────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
riseNUMERIC (unlabeled)  
────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
  
 Type: Numeric (long)  
 Label: riseNUMERIC  
  
 Range: [1,8] Units: 1  
 Unique values: 8 Missing .: 0/68  
  
 Tabulation: Freq. Numeric Label  
 7 1 Appointment by Army  
 4 2 Appointment by Emperor  
 3 3 Appointment by Praetorian Guard  
 7 4 Appointment by Senate  
 35 5 Birthright  
 1 6 Election  
 1 7 Purchase  
 10 8 Seized Power

# stset The Data

We need to stset the data so that Stata knows that this is survival data with special characteristics. For those of you have used other commands, this is similar to using svyset or xtset.

The most commonly used syntax is something like stset timevar, failure(failvar) id(id) [[1]](#footnote-25)

There are many ways to specify failvar, we outline the most straightforward. Consult Stata help for your exact situation.

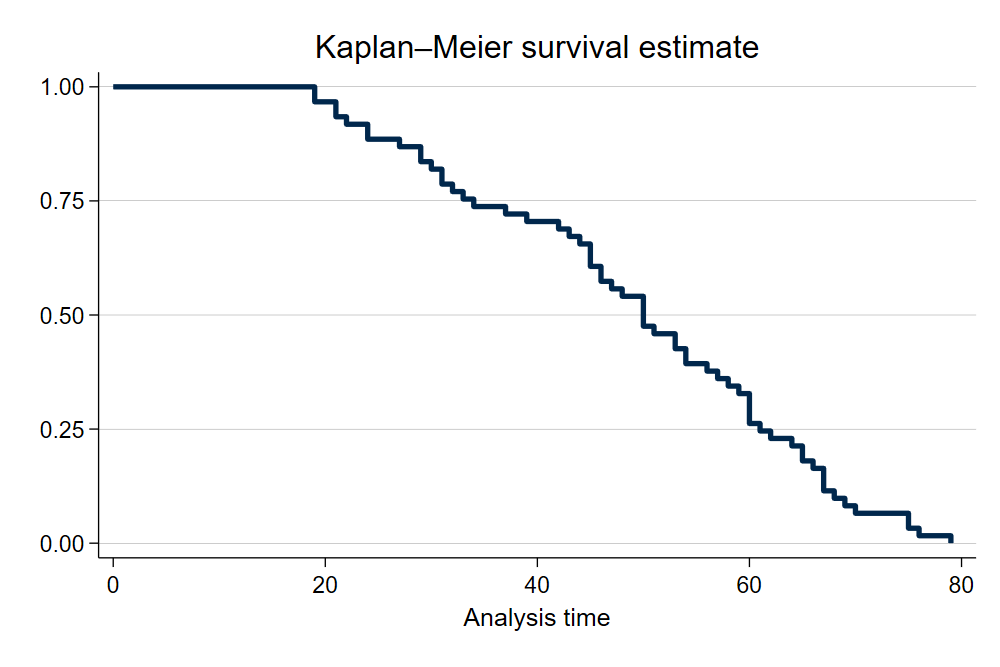
. stset age // stset the data  
  
Survival-time data settings  
  
 Failure event: (assumed to fail at time=age)  
Observed time interval: (0, age]  
 Exit on or before: failure  
  
──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
 68 total observations  
 5 event time missing (age>=.) PROBABLE ERROR  
 2 observations end on or before enter()  
──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
 61 observations remaining, representing  
 61 failures in single-record/single-failure data  
 2,984 total analysis time at risk and under observation  
 At risk from t = 0  
 Earliest observed entry t = 0  
 Last observed exit t = 79

# Kaplan-Meier Survivor Function (per Gabriela Ortiz, Stata)

## Overall Survival Function

. sts graph, scheme(michigan)  
  
 Failure \_d: 1 (meaning all fail)  
 Analysis time \_t: age

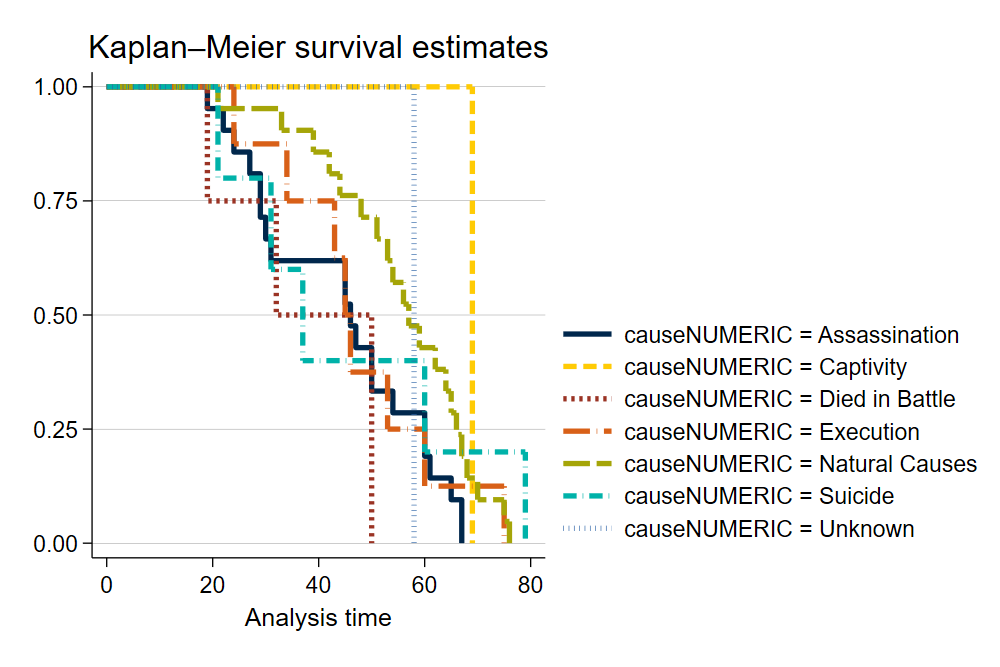
. graph export mysurvival0.png, width(1000) replace  
file mysurvival0.png saved as PNG format

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## Survival Function by Cause of Death

. sts graph, by(causeNUMERIC) scheme(michigan) // survival curve by cause of death  
  
 Failure \_d: 1 (meaning all fail)  
 Analysis time \_t: age

. graph export mysurvival1.png, width(1000) replace  
file mysurvival1.png saved as PNG format

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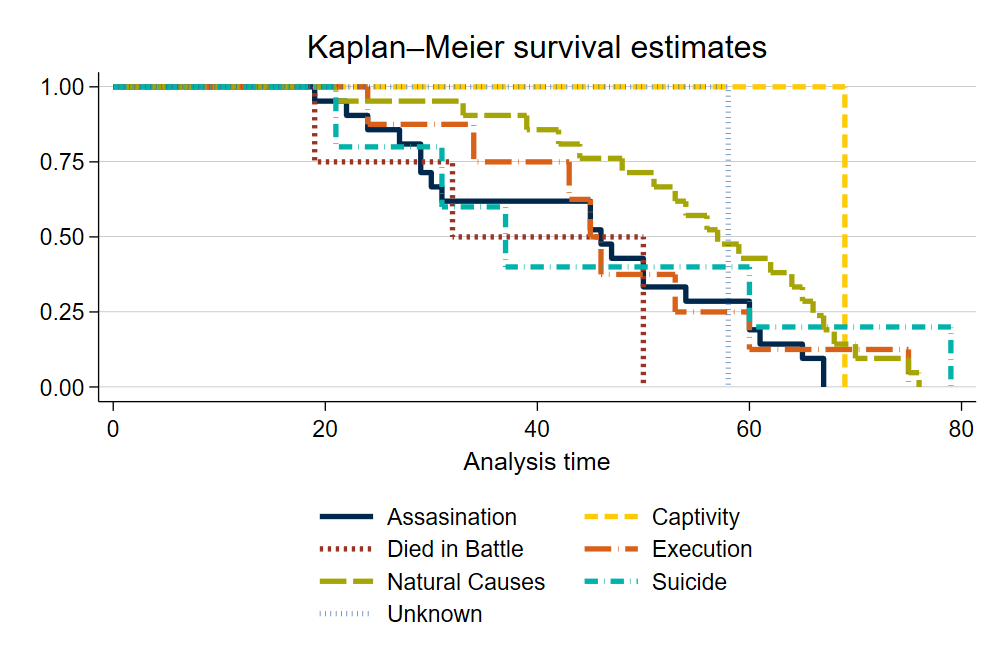
As an opportunity to take a closer look at the graph, we take a look at *cause of death* by age for those who *died in battle*.

. tabulate age causeNUMERIC if causeNUMERIC == 3  
  
 │ causeNUMER  
 │ IC  
 age │ Died in B │ Total  
───────────┼───────────┼──────────  
 19 │ 1 │ 1   
 32 │ 1 │ 1   
 50 │ 2 │ 2   
───────────┼───────────┼──────────  
 Total │ 4 │ 4

We can then work to make the legend more informative.

. sts graph, by(causeNUMERIC) scheme(michigan) ///  
> legend(pos(6) col(2) order(1 "Assasination" 2 "Captivity" 3 "Died in Battle" ///   
> 4 "Execution" 5 "Natural Causes" 6 "Suicide" 7 "Unknown")) // survival curve w better legend  
  
 Failure \_d: 1 (meaning all fail)  
 Analysis time \_t: age

. graph export mysurvival2.png, width(1000) replace  
file mysurvival2.png saved as PNG format

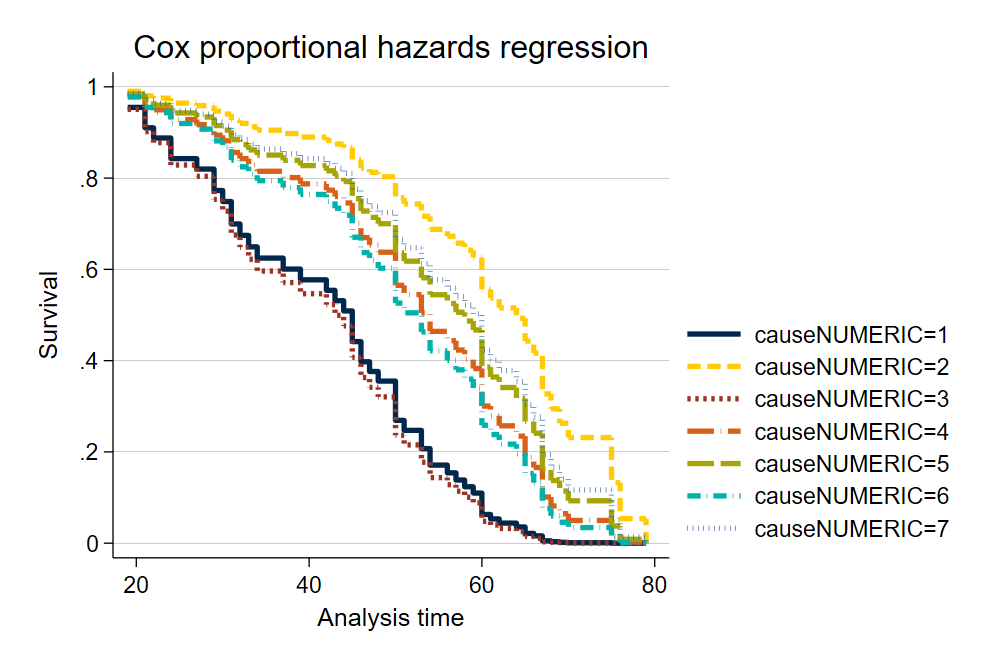
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# Cox Proportional Hazards Model

. stcox ib5.causeNUMERIC ib5.riseNUMERIC // Cox model  
  
 Failure \_d: 1 (meaning all fail)  
 Analysis time \_t: age  
  
Iteration 0: log likelihood = -194.21354  
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -183.48964  
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -183.01318  
Iteration 3: log likelihood = -183.00966  
Iteration 4: log likelihood = -183.00966  
Refining estimates:  
Iteration 0: log likelihood = -183.00966  
  
Cox regression with Breslow method for ties  
  
No. of subjects = 61 Number of obs = 61  
No. of failures = 61  
Time at risk = 2,984  
 LR chi2(13) = 22.41  
Log likelihood = -183.00966 Prob > chi2 = 0.0494  
  
─────────────────────────────────┬────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
 \_t │ Haz. ratio Std. err. z P>|z| [95% conf. interval]  
─────────────────────────────────┼────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
 causeNUMERIC │  
 Assassination │ 2.903395 1.087888 2.84 0.004 1.393044 6.051281  
 Captivity │ .6157704 .7019255 -0.43 0.671 .0659359 5.750634  
 Died in Battle │ 3.190409 1.898109 1.95 0.051 .9941017 10.2391  
 Execution │ 1.262384 .5780177 0.51 0.611 .5145707 3.096976  
 Suicide │ 1.420734 .9364432 0.53 0.594 .3903581 5.170852  
 Unknown │ .9040191 .9428808 -0.10 0.923 .1170536 6.981847  
 │  
 riseNUMERIC │  
 Appointment by Army │ .5067648 .252628 -1.36 0.173 .1907536 1.346295  
 Appointment by Emperor │ .7952664 .5753412 -0.32 0.752 .1926215 3.283375  
Appointment by Praetorian Guard │ .2160533 .1461524 -2.27 0.024 .057379 .8135208  
 Appointment by Senate │ .2247029 .1196918 -2.80 0.005 .0791046 .6382865  
 Election │ 1.07545 1.123459 0.07 0.944 .1388001 8.332792  
 Purchase │ .5483916 .596986 -0.55 0.581 .0649325 4.631477  
 Seized Power │ .4053515 .1654931 -2.21 0.027 .1821005 .9023027  
─────────────────────────────────┴────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────

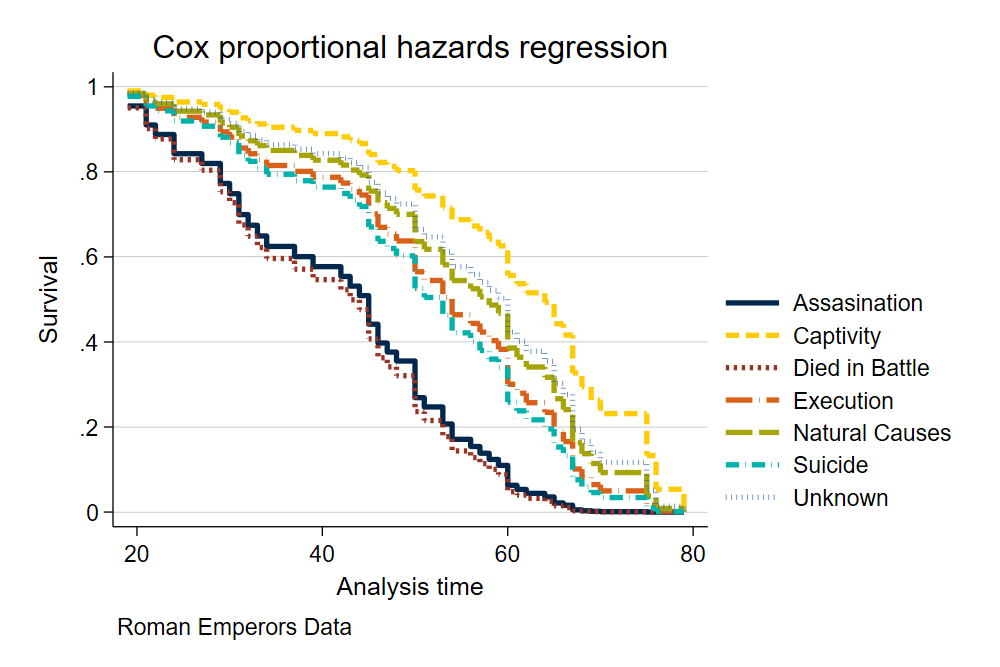
. stcurve, survival at(causeNUMERIC=(1(1)7)) ///  
> scheme(michigan) // basic survival curve by causeNUMERIC

. graph export mycox1.png, width(1000) replace  
file mycox1.png saved as PNG format

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. stcurve, survival ///  
> at(causeNUMERIC=(1(1)7)) ///  
> caption("Roman Emperors Data") ///  
> legend(order(1 "Assasination" 2 "Captivity" 3 "Died in Battle" ///   
> 4 "Execution" 5 "Natural Causes" 6 "Suicide" 7 "Unknown")) ///  
> scheme(michigan) // more nicely formatted survival curve

. graph export mycox2.png, width(1000) replace  
file mycox2.png saved as PNG format

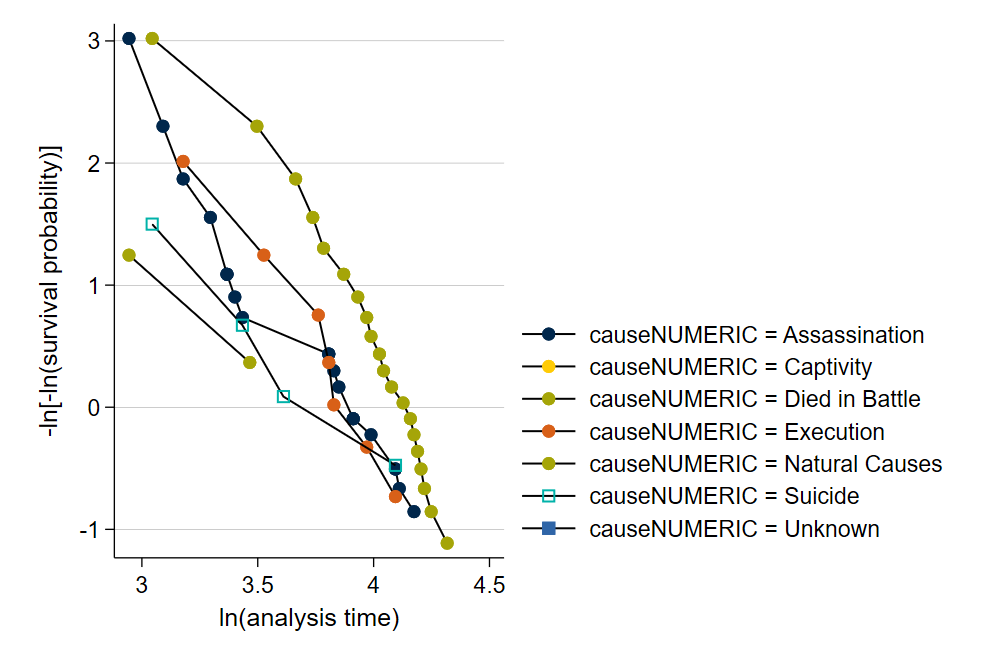
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# Proportional Hazards Assumption

. estat phtest // formal test of PH assumption  
  
Test of proportional-hazards assumption  
  
Time function: Analysis time  
─────────────┬──────────────────────────────────  
 │ chi2 df Prob>chi2  
─────────────┼──────────────────────────────────  
 Global test │ 21.90 13 0.0569  
─────────────┴──────────────────────────────────

. stphplot, by(causeNUMERIC) scheme(michigan) // graphical test of PH assumption  
  
 Failure \_d: 1 (meaning all fail)  
 Analysis time \_t: age

. graph export ph.png, width(1000) replace  
file ph.png saved as PNG format

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1. failvair is often something like died. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)